

MOTION BY MAYOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

OCTOBER 31, 2006

The Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, in partnership with other agencies, have launched a program called "No Drugs Down the Drain." The program encourages Southern California residents to dispose of their unused or expired medications in an environmentally appropriate manner.

The "No Drugs Down the Drain" program aims to educate residents to the potential dangers of various chemicals in medications entering surface waters and negatively impacting our environment. Studies have determined that the presence of medications in surface waters interferes with growth and reproduction in aquatic organisms.

The recommend method of disposing unused or expired medications is to take them to the County-wide household hazardous waste collection centers. Alternately, residents may put them in sturdy, secure and tightly sealed plastic containers which are treated (preferably with water, dirt, ashes, or salt) and put them in a trash can where children and animals can't reach the medications. In addition, patient's personal information may be removed from the container to ensure privacy.

Considering the size and population of Los Angeles County, I believe we should expand the "No Drugs Down the Drain" program. The County should offer residents additional and more convenient drop-off sites, including but not limited to our own County clinics and pharmacies and expending our County-wide Household Hazardous Waste Management Program. I would also encourage participation by commercial pharmacies, such as Rite Aid and CVS, as well as others associated with major healthcare providers. It is in our common interest to offer residents a convenient and

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safe method of disposal of these various drugs, some which are very toxic.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Director of Health Services, in collaboration with the Directors of Public Health, County Counsel, Director of Public Works, and Chief Administrative Officer work with the Sanitation Districts to pursue an integrated County-wide unused or expired drug collection and disposal program with a broad education component, and report back to the Board within 90 days with recommendations.

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